

Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety

Stakeholder Report on Activities

2008-2009

What is the Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety

The citizen's committee was created by state law in 2000 to "advise the state agencies and other appropriate federal and local government agencies and officials on matters relating to hazardous liquid and gas pipeline safety, routing, construction, operation, and maintenance." (RCW 81.88.140).

In 2002, Congress referenced the importance of such state advisory committees by requiring that the federal Secretary of Transportation respond in writing within 90 days to any pipeline safety recommendations made by a state pipeline safety advisory committee. (HR 3609, Section 24)

The committee has nine voting members representing the public, including local government and elected officials. Four non-voting members represent owners and operators of hazardous liquid and gas pipelines. The members are appointed by the Governor and serve three-year staggered terms. The director of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) pipeline safety program and members of staff assist the committee.

Goals & Expectations

The committee's primary goal is to maintain and improve the safety of pipelines in Washington State. In pursuing this goal, the committee expects to:

- Raise understanding and awareness of pipelines and pipeline safety;
- Review, comment and make recommendations on proposed local, state and federal pipeline laws and regulations;
- Give counsel and advice to local governments, the state pipeline safety program, the state spill prevention and response program (Department of Ecology), and the federal pipeline safety program in the U. S. Department of Transportation (Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration);

Committee Structure & Process

Leadership positions are filled by voting members of the committee. The chair serves for one or two years and is usually succeeded by the vice-chair. The committee strives for consensus decision-making. When this cannot be accomplished, a decision is made by a simple majority. No decision can be made unless a majority of the committee's voting members are in attendance. Non-voting members are encouraged to participate in all discussions. Subcommittees are formed on as needed basis. Subcommittees formed in 2008-2009 include ? and members participated in a workgroup for Damage Prevention (virtual DIRT).

Meetings

In 2008 and 2009, the committee met 10 times, **Need 1-2 Sentences on some things we want to highlight. AWC grant? Disaster prevention group?** Meetings generally are conducted 4-6 times a year and fill most of a business day. Agendas and minutes can be found on the committee's webpage <http://www.utc.wa.gov/pipeline/ccops>. Here is a listing of the meetings and tours that occurred in 2008 and 2009.

- January 24, 2008: State Investment Board, Olympia WA
- April 3, 2008: UTC, Olympia WA
- July 17, 2008: UTC, Olympia WA
- September 25, 2008: State Investment Board, Olympia WA
- December 4, 2008: UTC, Olympia WA
- March 3, 2009: UTC, Olympia WA
- April 17, 2009: UTC, Olympia WA
- May 28, 2009: State Investment Board, Olympia WA
- September 24, 2009: State Investment Board, Olympia WA
- November 12, 2009: State Investment Board, Olympia WA

Key Activities

The committee was actively involved in monitoring and commenting on the following events and investigations:

- Legislation regarding possible changes to the State "Call Before You Dig" or One-Call Program
- Legislation regarding elimination of Boards and Commissions
- Development of Ecology's Oil Spill Contingency Plan Rule.
- Results of the Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's audits of the UTC pipeline safety program

Formal Presentations

The committee advanced their knowledge of the technical aspects of pipeline safety through presentations during their meetings.

- PHMSA Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) presentation by Alan Lundeen, UTC
- Damage Prevention and Virtual DIRT Presentation, by UTC
- Transco Appomattox Pipeline Rupture and Fire Presentation, Carl Weimer
- Pipeline Assessment & Anomaly Reporting, Richard Kuprewicz
- Incident Reporting/Data Collection Rulemaking Presentation, by UTC
- Hydrocarbon Explosion Myths Presentation, Richard Kuprewicz
- Update on PHMSA Public Meeting, Richard Kuprewicz
- Comparison Report on Washington's One-Call Law vs. Pennsylvania, Grant Jensen

Public Involvement

The committee received public comment and participated in several legislative and rulemaking processes.

- Reviewed the PIPES Act of 2006 and provided comment to the US Department of Transportation regarding “Maintenance of Effort Clause”
- Provided public testimony in support of the La Center Special Overlay District Ordinance
- Testified in favor or opposition of **Did anyone do any Federal or Local testifying in 08/09 Carl?**
- Reviewed and provided comments on PHMSA’s draft Federal Rule proposal on Distribution Integrity Management Program
- Reviewed the PHMSA Integrity Management Program Special Permit Process and submitted comments to the US Department of Transportation
- Reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the pipeline associated with the proposed Bradwood Landing LNG facility on the Columbia River, and submitted comments to FERC.

Public Right-To-Know Initiative

The commission serves to shine the light on the pipeline industry and the state and federal regulators that monitor the industry's operation of the pipelines. All meetings are open to the public with time devoted to public comment. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the committee's website as are all correspondence and presentation. The committee's bylaws make it clear that all comments, presentations and materials provided at committee meetings are public records and must be provided in a manner that makes it easy to share with the public. To communicate with the committee, e-mail at: mwoodard@utc.wa.gov.

Members

In 2008/2009, the committee lost and gained members as terms expired and new members were appointed.

As of December 31, 2009, members were:

Bob Archey, chair, Seattle
VaNessa Duplessie, vice-chair, Ridgefield
Carl Weimer, Ferndale
Pete Kmet, Tumwater
Arthur Coulombe, Walla Walla
Ron Schmitt, Tacoma
Bill Rickard, Spokane
Non-voting members:
Duane Henderson, Puget Sound Energy
Grant Jensen, Williams Pipeline
George Hills, McChord Pipeline
David Knoelke, BP Pipelines North America

Other members serving during this period include:

Leo Bowman, Prosser

Richard Kuprewicz, Sammamish

Shirley Olson, Graham

Jean Buckner, Bellevue

Bob Bandara, Vancouver

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